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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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REGION VII 901 NORTH 5TH STREET ANSAS CITY, KANSAS 66101

OFFICE OF REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

JAN 1 4 2000

Dear Herculaneum Community Advisory Group:

I am writing you in response to your January 7, 2003 facsimile. You expressed concerns about meetings being held at our Regional Office concerning cleanup activities in Herculaneum, to which your community members have not been invited to attend.

A meeting concerning issues of the Herculaneum Lead Smelter Superfund Site was held on January 7, 2003, at our Regional Office. Representatives from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources(MDNR), Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (MDHSS), the Doe Run Company, and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) were in attendance.

This meeting, as well as similar meetings held previously, are regarded as negotiations between the regulatory agencies and Doe Run. These negotiations involve disclosure by Doe Run of confidential financial information, as well as discussions of confidential legal issues. The confidential nature of the discussions at these meetings preclude the meetings from being open to the public. Meetings of this type are not unique to the Herculaneum Site; in fact, similar kinds of meetings between regulatory officials and the companies liable for the cleanups are routinely held for most of our Superfund sites.

I want to assure you that significant decisions concerning cleanup actions to be taken in Herculaneum are not made at these meetings. Your community will be afforded the opportunity to provide input into proposed cleanup actions before any decisions are made by EPA. You are the people who live with the lead contamination, and we will not make decisions on the direction of the cleanup without involving you.

We value and appreciate the active involvement of the Community Advisory Group (CAG), as well as the community at large, in the ongoing effort to address the lead contamination in Herculaneum. We will continue to involve the community in the decision-making process and keep the community fully informed as the cleanup progresses.

Sincerely,

James B. Gulliford Regional Administrator

cc: Dave Mosby, MDNR
Bob Hinkson, MDNR
Denise Jordan-Izaguirre, ATSDR
Gale Carlson, DHSS
Aaron Miller, Doe Run

Mayor John Chamis, City of Herculaneum

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SUPERFUND RECORDS

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